

February 2005

**CITY, D.R. HORTON BREAK GROUND ON
224-UNIT LA BOHEME CONDOMINIUMS**

**PROJECT AT FORMER RITE AID SITE ON 30TH
STREET ALSO FEATURES NEW RETAIL SPACE**

I was pleased to join D.R. Horton and the City of San Diego Redevelopment Agency on January 21st to break ground on the 224-unit La Boheme condominium and retail project in North Park.



Councilmember Atkins joins representatives of D.R. Horton, City Redevelopment and Housing Authority staff, and North Park Redevelopment Project Area Committee members (left), and Greater North Park Community Planning Committee members (right) at the recent La Boheme ground-breaking ceremony.

Located at the intersection of Lincoln Avenue and Ohio Street just one block north of University Avenue, D.R. Horton's La Boheme joins Carter-Reese's Renaissance at North Park project as part the first new wave of North Park residential development in decades. Taken together with the North Park Theatre and adjacent parking garage projects currently underway, these two mixed-use housing projects will further North Park's progress as an arts, culture and entertainment destination, while also providing increased residential opportunities.

La Boheme's Spanish Revival-designed condominium structure offers a courtyard spa with a spacious deck, social lounge, and fitness center. The condominium community will also include gated underground parking, and convenient street-level shops, while the location enables residents to enjoy all local North Park community amenities. Comprising 436,395 square feet, the site will combine 224 residential homes and new retail space. The mixed-use residential building will offer several floor plans, including one and two bedroom condominium homes. These innovative architectural-designed homes range from 795 square feet to 1,148 square feet.

Most importantly, 45 condominiums have been designed to address San Diego's shortage of affordable housing--twice the amount required under the city's inclusionary housing policy--providing suitable living arrangements for San Diegans earning between 80 percent and 150 percent of the area median income.

The City of San Diego Redevelopment Agency, through the Community and Economic Development Department, will commit a total of \$3 million to the development. The funding is earmarked as a subsidy for the affordable housing units and public improvements for the project. The development is anticipated to generate new tax revenue each year, which will pay for the Redevelopment Agency's subsidy and eventually will be available to fund other revitalization efforts in the community.

**SAVE THE DATE!!
COUNCILMEMBER ATKINS TO DELIVER
STATE OF THE DISTRICT ADDRESS**

Wednesday, March 2nd
Balboa Park Club Ballroom, Balboa Park
Doors Open at 5:30pm; Program at 6:00pm

I want to invite community leaders, residents and business owners in Council District Three to my State of the District Address on Wednesday, March 2nd, at the Balboa Park Club Ballroom in Balboa Park. Doors will open at 5:30, and the program will start promptly at 6pm. A community reception with food and beverages will follow.

This event will give me the opportunity to review all that we have accomplished together during my first term of office, and will allow me to share with you my vision for the coming four years. We'll also take time out to honor various community leaders, city staff members and volunteers who have contributed to our many successes.

The Balboa Park Club is located at 2150 Pan American Road, at the west end of Presidents Way off Park Blvd. in Balboa Park.

To RSVP, call 619/236-6633. The event is free, and open to the public. I hope you'll be able to join us!

CITY WEBSITE OFFERS QUICK AND EASY WAY TO REPORT STREET-RELATED PROBLEMS

Pothole in front of your property? Something lodged in your storm drain? Traffic signal malfunctioning in your neighborhood? The City of San Diego website offers a quick and easy way to report street-related problems in and around your neighborhood.



It's as simple as logging on to http://apps.sandiego.gov/streetdiv/sreq_tl.jsp to fill in a service request. The feature offers a pull-down function that allows you to pick one of the following topic areas to request service:

- Alley in need of grading or repair*
- Asphalt street damaged*
- Concrete street damaged*
- Cracked or broken sidewalk*
- Debris in gutter*
- Faded striping*
- Graffiti removal*
- Grate frame broken or missing*
- Guardrail damaged*
- Missing traffic sign*
- Object in drain*
- Painted curb*
- Pedestrian/handicapped ramp damaged*
- Plugged storm drain or channel*
- Ponding in gutter*
- Pothole*
- Sidewalk and/or curb maintenance*
- Smelly drain*
- Storm drain overflowing*
- Street flooded*
- Street light out*
- Traffic signal malfunction*
- Traffic signs related project*
- Tree/support/code compliance*
- Other street-related problems*

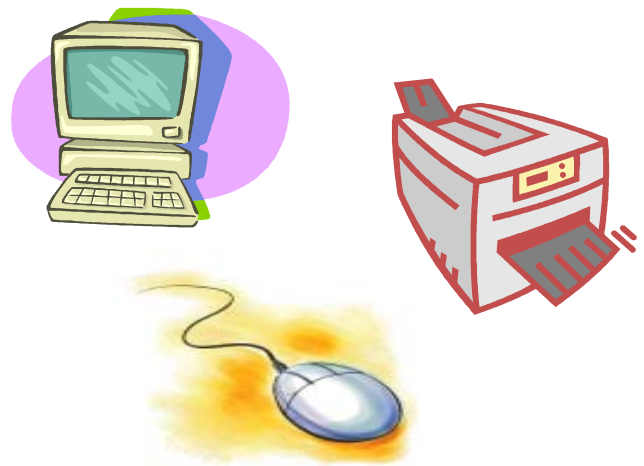
Using this site will help ensure that problems are solved as quickly as possible throughout our district. I encourage you to check out this helpful feature and utilize it whenever possible.

CITY AND SOLAR TURBINES TO HOLD RESIDENTIAL ELECTRONICS RECYCLING EVENT ON SAT., FEB. 12TH

Do any of you still have a cumbersome console TV or maybe a Commodore 64 hidden in your garage or closet? If so, get ready to clean off some shelf space and properly dispose of these outdated electronics.

The City of San Diego Environmental Services Department (ESD), in partnership with Solar Turbines Incorporated, will host a residential electronics recycling event on Saturday, February 12, 2005, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Solar Turbines' Kearny Mesa facility located at 4200 Ruffin Road, San Diego 92123.

This event is free and open to the first 1,000 residents of the City of San Diego and the County of San Diego's unincorporated areas who schedule an appointment by calling ESD's Customer Service at (858) 694-7000 beginning Tuesday, January 18, 2005.



Participants who schedule an appointment will be mailed an admission ticket that lists their appointment time to drop off a limit of five each of the following: televisions and computer monitors, computer processing units (CPUs), and computer printers. Peripheral computer devices such as keyboards, mice and speakers will also be accepted and there is no limit to the amount of these items that can be dropped off.

For information about residential electronics recycling programs or general information about ESD's programs, please visit the department website at <http://www.sandiego.gov/environmental-services/>.

LABOR COUNCIL, COUNCILMEMBER ATKINS KICK OFF ACCESSIBLE SIDEWALKS PROJECT IN DISTRICT THREE

On January 25th, I joined with representatives of the San Diego-Imperial Counties Labor Council, Wes Johnson of Accessible San Diego and City of San Diego Disabilities Services Coordinator Linda Woodbury to kick off the Labor Council's Accessible Sidewalks Project in Council District Three.

Apprentice laborers install a new pedestrian ramp at Collier Avenue and 33rd Street in Normal Heights as part of the kickoff of the Labor Council's Accessible Sidewalks Project in Council District Three.



Under the project, which is paid for with \$20,000 in District Three Community Development Block Grant funds, labor apprentices will gain valuable work experience and job skills by learning to install ADA-approved pedestrian ramps which will increase access for the disabled as well as the elderly. The concept for the project is similar to the District Three Pothole Program undertaken in 2003, which used Labor Council apprentices to fill in more than 320 potholes over a three-month period.



Councilmember Atkins is joined by (left to right) Jerry Butkiewicz of the San Diego-Imperial Counties Labor Council, Cement Mason Richard Griffith, Wes Johnson of Accessible San Diego, City of San Diego Disabilities Services Coordinator Linda Woodbury, and Labor Council Apprentice Monte Holloway, at the Accessible Sidewalks Project kickoff.

I want to continue to focus on repairing the infrastructure of Council District Three. This project will allow us to take a proactive approach to decrease the backlog on the city's ADA pedestrian ramp installation list, while also offering valuable training to apprentice laborers. By installing pedestrian ramps, we not only improve the walkability of our neighborhoods, but also provide a safe and accessible route of travel for individuals with disabilities.

These improvements benefit the entire community, including walkers, joggers, and parents with strollers, as well as provide access for disabled individuals.

CITY SEEKS FEEDBACK ON TRANSITION TO STRONG MAYOR

In January of 2006, the city of San Diego's system of governance will change from a city manager form to a strong mayor form. The change, approved by city voters in November 2004, will take place on a five-year trial basis, after which voters will decide whether or not to make the shift permanent.

The new system will make the mayor the city's chief executive officer, similar to the governor or the president. The council will act as the legislative body, providing checks and balances to the mayor's new authority.

The mayor and City Council are seeking the public's input during the one-year implementation period of the transition to a strong mayor form of governance. I hope you'll take the time to let us know your thoughts on this important change.



In January 2006, responsibility for the day-to-day operations of the city will be transferred from the city manager to the mayor. Pictured are City Manager Lamont Ewell (left) and Mayor Dick Murphy (right).



The city has created a web page at: www.sandiego.gov/mayortransition/documents/index.shtml to give the public the opportunity to view all applicable documents and information related to the transition and the new form of governance.

Please send comments or suggestions you have regarding the new strong mayor form of governance to:

Beth A. Murray, Assistant to the City Manager
1200 Third Avenue, Suite 1700, MS 51A
San Diego, CA 92101
Telephone: 619/236-6720
Fax: 619/236-6706
E-mail: mayortransition@sandiego.gov

Please feel free to send a copy of your comments to me at ToniAtkins@sandiego.gov, or 202 C Street, MS 10A, San Diego, CA 92101. Your input will be critical to me as we move forward to implement our new governance structure.

VERMONT STREET BRIDGE TURNS 10

Uptown and University Heights residents turned out in early December to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the reconstructed Vermont Street Bridge. The event was sponsored by the University Heights Community Association (UHCA).



(l to r) State Senator Christine Kehoe, San Diego Arts and Culture Commissioner Aida Mancillas, Council-member Toni Atkins and former UHCA President Ron Johnston at the 10th anniversary celebration of the Vermont Street Bridge.

Introductions were made by the current UHCA President, Candace Bremond, and former President Ron Johnston. I was pleased to be joined by newly sworn in State Senator Christine Kehoe, and we all enjoyed the view of the festively lighted bridge, the talented carolers and the delicious refreshments.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE VERMONT STREET BRIDGE

- The bridge was originally built in 1916 by John D. Spreckels to connect properties the millionaire owned.
- The span was condemned in 1978 by the State Department of Transportation on the grounds that deterioration had made it unsafe. It was removed in 1979.
- In 1988, the University Heights Association, which actively participated in the planning for the 12-acre site, requested that the rebuilding of the bridge be incorporated as part of the Uptown District redevelopment of the former Sears-Roebuck site.
- In 1988, the City Council approved a capital improvements budget that included reconstruction of the bridge.
- The total \$1.2 million construction cost was taken from a sales tax fund set aside for street improvements.
- The bridge project was also the beneficiary of a public arts project created by Lynn Susholtz, Gwendolyn Gomez and Aida Mancillas of Stone Paper Scissors. Metal panels etched with literary quotes and icons, blending words from the craftsman-style homes of University Heights of the early 1900s, adorn the railings along the bridge. Stone Paper Scissors was selected by the San Diego Commission for Arts and Culture.

POLICE DEPARTMENT OFFERS TIPS ON HOW TO KEEP YOUR CAR SAFE

One of the sad realities of urban living is the increased threat of theft and vandalism to our personal vehicles. Many of us have felt the frustration of coming out to our cars or trucks to find them broken into. Perhaps your stereo is missing, or the glove compartment has been forced open, or the car has been completely ransacked, or worse yet, stolen.

Car prowls, as they are referred to in police jargon, appear to be on the rise nationwide. To help combat this, the San Diego Police Department offers the following advice to help keep your vehicle safe:

- If possible, park in a well-lit, busy area near your destination.
- Do not leave articles within sight inside your vehicle. What may be of no value to you could be more than enough motivation for thieves.
- Alarms and steering wheel locks are proven deterrents to theft.
- Lock your car each time you leave it, no matter how briefly. Do not hide spare key on the vehicle.
- Record serial numbers on your stereo or CD equipment and consider marking these with your driver's license number. Do not use your social security number, as it is harder to trace, and makes you vulnerable to identity theft.
- If your CD player has a removable face, take it with you, even if you are only going to be gone for a few minutes.
- If you put parcels, your purse or wallet in the trunk, do it before you arrive at your destination. Criminals watch your actions after you park.
- Do not leave firearms in your vehicle.
- Remember to lock truck-bed toolboxes.
- If you have a garage, park your car in it, and lock the doors.
- Organize and use Neighborhood Watch. Your local police community relations officer can assist you in getting a new group started.

How To Contact Us

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